

New Hampshire Statewide Assessment 2010-2011

Superintendents and School, Principals, and District Statewide Assessment Coordinators,

As a new school year approaches, we want to thank you for your help in developing and administering a quality state-wide assessment system. Please extend our sincere appreciation to everyone in your schools and districts involved in statewide assessment for their careful attention to details. Thanks!

This memo includes information about four areas: NH Statewide Assessment System (NECAP, NH-Alt, and ACCESS for ELLs), Accountability and AYP, NAEP, and Arts Assessment in NH.

We plan to continue this annual notice. We hope it helps as you think about planning for the next school year. Information included in this message (organized by page number):

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12. Known Religious Holidays during NECAP Testing in school year 2010-2011

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What's New in NH Statewide Assessment for 2010-2011?

- **2010-2011 Statewide Assessment Participation Guidelines for NECAP, NH-Alt, and ACCESS for ELLs®** will be published on the Department's website by August 1, 2010 at: <http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/index.htm> within the "Notices" link
- **NECAP Writing tests at grade 5 and 8 are back again.** In addition to student, school, and district reports at grades 5 and 8, districts will receive a CD of student responses to the essay question.
- **NH-Alt is in its third year of a three-year revision period.** Big changes. See the NH-Alt page for details.
- **2010-2011 Medical Emergency Exemption forms for NECAP, NH-Alt, and ACCESS for ELLs®** will be published on the Department's website by August 1, 2010 at: <http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/index.htm> within the "Notices" link
- **Computer administered accommodations** will be available for students in grade 11 (reading and mathematics) through NimbleTools. Mandatory September 1 workshop – see NECAP page.
- The **NHSWADL** (New Hampshire State-Wide Assessment Distribution List) is being managed by Jiffi Rainie (Jennifer.Rainie@ed.state.nh.us). This distribution list is the Department's primary link to test coordinators in the schools and districts. At least 1 staff member in each area of the state-wide assessment (NECAP, NH-Alt, and ACCESS for ELLs®) from each school and each district should be included in this distribution list: Name, school, district, and MOST importantly, email address.
- Volunteers are needed for 2010-2011 **Statewide Assessment Committees** (application available at: <http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/index.htm> within the "Notices" link. Information and application deadlines for the other committees will be available during the school year.
 - NECAP Bias Review – Contact: Deb Fleurant (603)271-3838
 - Reading NECAP Test Item Review – Contact: Tim Kurtz (603) 271-3846
 - Mathematics NECAP Test Item Review – Contact: Tim Kurtz (603) 271-3846
 - Science NECAP Test Item Review – Contact: Tim Kurtz (603) 271-3846
 - NH-Alt (see NH-Alt notice on p. 4 of this memo) – Contact: Gaye Fedorchak (603) 271-7383

Reporting Updates from 2009-2010 school year:

- **ELL Accountability Reporting** for school year 2009-2010 tentatively will be released by early August, 2010.
- **NECAP Science and NH-Alt Reporting** will happen September 22, 2010. Confidential student level data will be released to districts on September 17. Workshops have not been scheduled at this time.

Websites for NH Statewide Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability

<http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/curriculum/index.htm>
<http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/index.htm>
<http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/accountability/index.htm>

New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP)

In October, NECAP will be used to assess grade 3-8 and 11 students in reading and mathematics, and grade 5, 8, and 11 students in writing. In May, NECAP will be used to assess grade 4, 8, and 11 students in science.

NECAP Grade Level	What content areas are assessed?			
	October 1-22, 2010 (pick up October 25)			May 9-26, 2011 (pick up May 27)
	Reading	Math	Writing	Science
3	Yes	Yes	-	-
4	Yes	Yes	-	Yes
5	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
6	Yes	Yes	-	-
7	Yes	Yes	-	-
8	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
11	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

We will be running a series of workshops connected to both the fall and spring assessments. These include test administration workshops (prior to the assessment) and reporting/test interpretation workshops (after the assessment). The Test Administration workshops for the fall include face-to-face workshops for new test coordinators and new principals, a Webinar for experienced test coordinators (that will be posted on our website for later viewing), and a face-to-face workshop for high schools planning to utilizing the NimbleTools online accommodations. The registration site will be open in early August (iregister.measuredprogress.org). Other workshops will be posted later in the year.

Fall 2009 NECAP Test Administration Workshops

	Date	Time	Location	Seating
NimbleTools Workshop Online Accommodations (G11)	Wednesday, September 1	9:00-12:00	Bedford – SERESC (& 3 remote sites)	125
New Test Coordinators and New Principals	Thursday, September 9	8:30-12:00	Bedford – SERESC	150
New Test Coordinators and New Principals	Friday, September 10	8:30-12:00	Bretton Woods – Highland Center	75
Webinars for Experienced Test Coordinators, and for Test Administrators	September - tbd	tbd	Any computer terminal	infinite

We hope to be able to issue assessment reports connected to the fall NECAP in the fourth week of January. Your help with packing up fall NECAP material correctly and returning promptly will go a long way toward meeting this goal. This will include results for reading, mathematics at grades 3-8 and 11, and for writing at grades 5, 8, and 11.

Where do I find more information about NECAP?

Updates: <http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/updates.htm>
NECAP Materials: <http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/NECAP>
Contact: Tim Kurtz, 271-3846, TKurtz@ed.state.nh.us

NH Alternate Assessment

What's New for 2010-2011? ... *Lots.*

The new version of the NH Alternate Assessment that will be run next year is being built around the concept of defined learning progressions, or clusters of concepts (GLEs) that appear to develop together within mathematics, reading, writing and science. For that reason, we are renaming the assessment to:

The New Hampshire Alternate Learning Progressions (NH-ALPs) Assessment. Teachers will use both video clips and structured written narrative documentation to show how their students are performing on specified content standards in

integrated, authentic ways. How does the student interact with a book or other adapted text? How does the student approach certain types of mathematical problems? We are working with content specialists and sensory/communication access specialists to develop guidelines for teachers so they understand various ways their students might be able to engage with and represent truly rigorous academic content – not necessarily at grade level, but at whatever level they are able to dig in and engage. We still won't expect alternately assessed students to show grade level functioning, but whatever level in the progression they start from, they must show real, solid content performance. A large part of this project will be to provide support to the field in order to find better ways to help students learn the content and then demonstrate what they know and can do. There is much to say, and we hope this new system will help both students and teachers at many levels.

Alternately Assessed Students in Grade:	What content areas are assessed in 2010-2011?			
	Reading	Math	Writing	Science
2	Yes	Yes	-	-
3	Yes	Yes	-	-
4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5	Yes	Yes	-	-
6	Yes	Yes		
7	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
8	-	-	-	Yes
10	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
11	-	-	-	Yes

Will NH Alternate Assessment be run next year? YES, but it will run differently next year than ever before. It is our belief that you will come to welcome the changes, but we understand that the proof is in the doing. NH Alternate Assessment IS CHANGING in 2010-2011.

Will the test scores count next year? YES, NH-Alt scores will continue to count toward AYP.

When will the new assessment start? Formal data collection will occur from March through May 2011. This is later than in previous years. The new assessment will require students to document their 'highest & best' performance of the school year, and this usually happens near the end of the year. You will have most of the school year to get there. In fact, NH Alternate Assessment materials will be picked up by UPS close to the same time as they were this year.

How can we prepare for the new assessment?

1. If you don't have access to a digital video camera, consider buying one. They are not expensive and can be purchased through many funding sources. If you do have one, locate it and make sure it's working. You will need a digital video camera to collect data next year. Without it you will need to provide much more written documentation.
2. Work closely with your general education content teachers to locate where your student is currently functioning within the NH Curriculum Frameworks. We will be publishing the final Alternate Learning Progressions in the fall (final versions will be complete in late November).
3. Ask yourself anchoring questions, such as:
 - *Where is our student communicating some level of independent response, interest, or engagement?*
 - *Where in the curriculum is our student communicating choices or attempting to answer questions?*
 - *How effective is our student's communication system and supports?*
 - *Is he or she effectively communicating with us?*
 - *Are we effectively communicating with him or her?*
 - *How can we improve our student's communication ability?*
 - *Who can help us do this?*

4. Review the NH Curriculum Frameworks in Reading, Mathematics, Writing, and Science; and read the curriculum support materials available online. Go to: <http://www.education.nh.gov/> and use the alphabet search function to find: "Curriculum".
5. **Fall Information Sessions** will be offered to help you plan and prepare. Beginning September 13th, NHDOE will begin running a series of 10 half-day informational sessions statewide. *Every* district (*ideally every school*) should plan to send a team of educators to one of these sessions. These sessions will introduce the new format of the assessment and provide guidance on how to plan and prepare for the March-May data collection period. These information sessions are open to all. People may attend information sessions as individuals or in teams. **Online registration for the Fall Information Sessions opens on August 16th, 2010.**
To register, go online to: <http://iregister.measuredprogress.org>
6. **Official Test Administration Workshops (full day sessions) will occur across the state in January/February.** General and special educators who register will be required to attend these sessions *in partnership with each other* and registration will be structured to reflect this. **This collaboration criterion must be met or admission to the workshop will not be permitted.** Exceptions will be *few* and must be requested directly from Gaye Fedorchak at the NH Department of Education (see email below). People attending without a collaborative (general or special educator) partner must present evidence, at the time of sign-in, that an exception was approved. An exception log will be kept at the sign-in desk. *Schools must create a way for teams of special and general educators to work effectively in partnership to complete the new assessment. The Department is committed to doing all that we can to support this collaboration. Learning together about this assessment system is the first step.*

Which students may participate in the new NH-Alt? The criteria for student participation have NOT changed. Information on the criteria for determining student eligibility for participation in NH Alternate Assessment are posted online at the NH Department of Education Alternate Assessment webpage at: <http://www.education.nh.gov/>. (On the home page, at the left click on: Accountability/Assessment.)

What grades will be assessed? Exactly the same grades are being assessed that were assessed before. Please see the chart above for full information on what content areas are tested at each grade.

Will we register students for participation in school year 2010-2011? YES. We will make some improvements, but this will occur much like it has in the past. This year we intend to register students during the month of March.

Will there still be coaching support provided during the school year? YES. Coaching support drop-in sessions will be available each month in the same way that they were run across the state this year, but will begin in March after the official test administration trainings in January/February.

➤ **SPECIAL NOTE:** We are **now recruiting** teams of educators who work with students taking the alternate assessment to try out the new data collection procedures during September and October, 2010, to help improve the test materials and teacher supports we are developing. If interested in learning more: **go online by August 20th** to: <http://iregister.measuredprogress.org> and sign up for the Fall Phase 2 Field Trials. We will contact you with more information before you commit to participating. Please consider participating – it's a 'no harm-no foul' genuinely *safe* chance to learn about the new assessment as early as possible.

For more information, contact:

- Gaye Fedorchak, Director of NH Alternate Learning Progressions (NH-ALPs) Assessment at: gfedorchak@ed.state.nh.us, (603) 271-7383
- Allyson Vignola, Field Coach for the NH-ALPs at: allysonvignola@hotmail.com
- Marie Cote, Field Coach for the NH-ALPs at: marie.cote@comcast.net
- Amanda Breitmaier, Program Manager, at: abreitmaier@measuredprogress.org 1- (800) 431-8901

ACCESS for ELLs[®] English Language Proficiency Test

The number of English language learners (ELLs) is on the rise in New Hampshire and schools should be aware of the screening process. Every student in NH is given a Home Language Survey at the time of first enrollment in a school or district. The English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) teacher in the school or district then reviews each survey to determine which students need to be screened for Limited English proficiency (LEP). If the ESOL teacher determines that a student is an ELL (English Language Learner), that student is offered ELL services and must take an English Language Proficiency test each and every year until the student meets the requirements for proficiency. The test that NH has chosen to use for English Language Proficiency is the ACCESS for ELLs[®] which is currently given in January – February of each year. All ELLs (K–12) must take all four domains (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing) of this federally-mandated test whether they are in a Title III program or not.

- The NH Department of Education strongly recommends using the W-APT as the screener for English Language Proficiency. This screener is free and may be downloaded from www.wida.us. The W-APT is designed to assist teachers in placement decisions and to make ordering the ACCESS test easier for teachers.
- The ACCESS for ELLs[®] English Language Proficiency Test may only be given by certified test administrators. ESOL teachers, general education teachers, or professional staff members (i.e., guidance, Speech/Language therapists, etc.) are eligible to certify for ACCESS administration. Test administrators must be familiar with and have worked with ELL students. Any school or district personnel who is eligible and wishes to become certified to administer the ACCESS test must contact Susan Morgan.
- There will be training/information throughout the school year to inform administrators and educators about ACCESS for ELLs[®]. Topics will include: W-APT administration and test training. At least one administrator, ESOL Coordinator or ESOL teacher is encouraged to attend training. We will also have training this year by WIDA consultants at a time to be determined. Information will be posted on the ACCESS webpage (see below).
- For news from the Title III office and the Assessment office (ELL info only), information about upcoming conferences, courses, and other state and regional events, join the ESOL listserv. School districts can also use the listserv to post an electronic ad for an ESOL teacher. To join, please contact the listserv facilitator, Dr. Suzanne Irujo, at sirujo@bu.edu.
- A **calendar of important dates** will be on the NH Assessment ACCESS for ELLs[®] website in the fall and will give specific dates for the following
 - September - ESOL Assessment training calendar
 - Mid-November to early December - Window for ordering ACCESS for ELLs[®] tests
 - First week of January 2010 - SAUs receive ACCESS for ELLs[®] tests
 - Mid-January through February - Administration window for ACCESS for ELLs[®]
 - Mid-February - Deadline for ordering additional ACCESS for ELLs[®] material
 - Early March - Deadline for SAUs to return ACCESS for ELLs[®] Test Materials to MetriTech
 - Mid-May - Release of ACCESS for ELLs[®] results, if all districts return their test materials by early March
- Please be sure to share all information with the ESOL Coordinator within each District or individual school.
- **All ELL students in K through Grade 12 must take the ACCESS for ELLs[®] English Language Proficiency Test each and every year until they have met the requirement for proficiency and it is determined that they are not in need of ESOL services. Information regarding progress and proficiency can be found on the NH ACCESS for ELLs website.**

Where do I find more information about English Language Proficiency Screening and Testing?

Contact: Susan Morgan, 271-3719 or smorgan@ed.state.nh.us. Website:
<http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/ells.htm>.

Important Dates for 2010-2011 – NH Statewide Assessment

- **July-August:** Accepting inquiries re: new NH-Alt Phase 2 Field Trials data collection procedures – to register, go to <http://iregister.measuredprogress.org>. Alt coaches will contact you.
- **July 15-August 9:** Submit initial NECAP Label Request to Department for fall testing (through i4see). Districts should submit label requests for all public school students, and all Out-of-District placed students who are not placed in a NH Public School.
- **Early August:** Release of Title III Accountability reports
- **August 10:** Overview of new NH-Alt at NH Association of Special Education Administrators Summer Academy – Meredith, NH
- **August 20:** Last day to accept orders for Braille and Large Print for Fall NECAP. Order Fall NECAP Large Print Test Forms and/or Braille test forms by calling Measured Progress at 877-632-7774. Please provide student name, SASID, and grade level as of September 2010.
- **September:** ESOL Assessment Training calendar begins (details to follow)
- **September 1:** Mandatory NECAP Workshop at SERESC for HS intending to use NimbleTools for fall testing
- **September 9, 10:** NECAP Test Administration Workshops for New Test Administrators and New Principals
- **Mid September:** Web based Test Administration Workshop for experienced Test Coordinators and Test Administrators. (notice to schools and districts in August)
- **September 13-17:** NH-Alt Learning Progressions Workshops (registration opens August 16)
- **Week of September 13:** Fall NECAP Tests Shipped
- **September 17:** Confidential Release of NECAP Science and NH-Alt student level results (7:00 AM)
- **September 22:** Public Release of NECAP Science and NH-Alt Results (10:00 AM)
- **September 30:** Last day to order second round NECAP Labels (through i4see)
- **October 1-22:** Administration Window - Fall 2010 NECAP Test Administration (Pick up on October 25)
- **November:** Order ACCESS for ELLs test
- **Early January:** Receive shipment of ACCESS for ELLs test
- **Mid January to February:** Administer ACCESS for ELLs test
- **Late January:** Release of NECAP Results for grades 3-8, 11 and NH-Alt Results for grades 2-7 and 10
- **Late January-Early February:** NH-Alt Learning Progressions Assessment Test Administration Workshops (registration in early January via <http://iregister.measuredprogress.org>)
- **January 25-March 5:** NAEP Testing in NH Schools
- **February:** NECAP and NH-Alt Test Results Interpretation Workshops (Reading, Writing, Mathematics - TBA)
- **February:** Mid-year collection of ELL data
- **February 1:** NH-Alt students enrolled in a NH district by February 1 must complete and submit a May portfolio
- **February 1:** LEP students enrolled in NH districts by February 1 must participate in the ACCESS for ELLs® test
- **March:** Online registration for student participating in NH-Alt Learning Progression Assessment
- **Early March:** Return of ACCESS for ELLs test to MetriTech
- **Mid March:** Braille and Large Print Orders for NECAP Science are due (for students new since October)
- **March 31:** Complete Superintendent certification for return of portfolios
- **Early April:** Last day to submit initial NECAP Science Label Request to Department for spring testing (through i4see). Districts should submit label requests for all public school students and all Out of District placed students.
- **April:** Spring 2008 NECAP Science Test Administration Workshops
- **Early May:** UPS Pick-up of all completed NH-Alt Portfolios (from attending school)
- **Mid May:** Release of ACCESS for ELLs test results to schools
- **May 9-26:** NECAP Science Assessment test administration window (pick up on May 27)

AYP Updates for 2010-2011

The NH Department of Education is not anticipating any changes to AYP calculations next year except for the graduation rate calculation. See USED requirements below. If we find that the new calculations vary widely from previous years, we may be requesting a change in the target rate. Using the previously approved targets for graduation rate, schools would be expected to have a rate of 80% or better. Any changes to the NH AYP definition must be approved by the US Education Department.

The USDOE requires that, beginning with the 2010-2011 assessment year, states must use a cohort graduation rate for AYP determinations. For New Hampshire, because we test in October 2010, we use the previous "teaching year" to determine AYP. This means that for the Class of 2010, we will be calculating a true 4-year cohort graduation rate. Starting with this class, we will also be producing for public information a five-year and a 6-year graduation rate for each cohort of students.

NH currently uses the dropout rates and calculates a 4-year adjusted graduation rate based on those numbers. The new cohort rate (as required by USED) will be calculated using the following rules and guidelines:

- A graduating class 4-year cohort consists of those students who entered any 9th grade for the first time four years earlier. For example, students first entering 9th grade in 2005-2006 were given an original graduation year of 2009. Once set, a student's original graduation year is never changed. Before calculating a school's graduation rate, the original class cohort is "adjusted" by subtracting students who have transferred-out and adding those with the same original graduation year who have transferred-in. Deceased students are subtracted.
- Graduation is defined as receiving a "regular diploma (not including an alternative degree that is not fully aligned with the state's academic standards, such as a certificate or a GED)."
- Students who graduate at the end of the 4th summer may be counted as a 4th-year graduate.
- The 4-year graduation rate for the adjusted cohort is the number of students graduating with a regular diploma within 4 years divided by the adjusted cohort.

A Technical Advisory is being developed to assist school districts in understanding the changes. For more information, contact: Susan Randall, 271-3809, srandall@ed.state.nh.us, or Deb Wiswell, 271-3828, dwiswell@ed.state.nh.us.

AYP 2011 Demographic Data Definitions and Sources

This document identifies the student demographic data sources that will be used to run the January 2011 NECAP assessment reports and the spring 2011 AYP Reports. It will be updated and posted on the accountability web page.

Reminder: For the second year, **Full Academic Year** is defined as an ADM $\geq .90$, and **Participation Rates** are aggregated over as many as three years as follows:

1. If for current year, $n \geq 40$ and rate ≥ 0.95 , then Yes (and reported as "Yes"), otherwise...
2. If for aggregate of 2 most recent years, $n \geq 40$ and rate ≥ 0.95 , then Yes (reported as "Yes(2)"), otherwise...
3. If for aggregates of 3 most recent years, $n \geq 40$ and rate ≥ 0.95 , then Yes (and reported as "Yes(3)"), otherwise...
4. If for aggregate of 3 most recent years, $n \geq 40$ and rate < 0.95 , then No (and reported as "No"), otherwise...
5. If for aggregate of 3 most recent years, $n < 40$, then no decision (and reported as "***").

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

The NAEP assessment cycle begins in the spring prior to the academic year in which the assessment is administered. Preliminary notification and scheduling is provided far in advance of the assessment period.

Key steps that have occurred:

- Superintendents of Schools were notified in a letter dated May 26, 2010 of the schools in their district(s) that were selected for the 2011 State-Level NAEP (academic year, 2010-2011).
- June 10, 2010 Principals of the selected schools were notified and provided a pre-assigned assessment date. The dates are flexible and can be changed to avoid conflicts but remain within the NAEP assessment window, January 24, 2011 through March 4, 2011.

For the 2011 NAEP, the NAEP cycle coincides with the cycles of the Trends in Mathematics and Science Study (**TIMSS**) and the Progress in Reading Literacy Study (**PIRLS**). The coinciding cycles present an opportunity for a special study of the science portion of the NAEP assessment compared to the TIMSS assessment. The conduct of the TIMSS special study should be imperceptible to the schools or students selected. The coinciding cycles also present an opportunity to select some schools for the PIRLS assessment and the regular TIMSS assessment. In New Hampshire there are very few schools selected for these international assessments but there is a noticeable artifact. The assessment window for these two assessments is in the spring, primarily during the months of April and May. Superintendents and Principals already know which schools are scheduled for these assessments.

Key dates for the remainder of the NAEP assessment cycle for the 2011 administration follow:

- Late August – Second notification letters to Principals of selected schools with detailed information about designating a School Coordinator (SC), registering for MySchool, and submitting a list of students in the assessed grade
- September and October – Completion of the School Data Collection Form on the MySchool website. Ongoing communication with SC
- By November 1st – Submit through the MySchool website an e-file list of students for the targeted grade being assessed
- In December – A Pre-Assessment Visit is scheduled for each school by the NAEP assessment staff and Pre-Assessment packets are sent out. Packets contain short questionnaires to be completed by school staff prior to January
- In January 2011 – Pre-Assessment Visits are conducted and the short questionnaires from the Pre-Assessment packet are collected
- January 24 to March 4, 2011 – Assessments are conducted by NAEP staff. Each school has a specific date mutually agreeable with 90 minutes of testing for the selected student sample.
- April 4 to May 27, 2011 – TIMSS or PIRLS Assessments are conducted by NAEP staff. Each school has a specific date mutually agreeable with 90 minutes of testing for the selected student sample. New Hampshire has very few schools selected for either of these assessments.

Where do I find more information about NAEP?

<http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/index.htm>

(then select the link: NAEP; or contact: David Gebhardt, 271-2298, dgebhardt@ed.state.nh.us)

Arts Assessment in New Hampshire

Standards-based learning and assessment in the Arts:

Good assessment begins with standards that describe content in terms of knowledge and skills in clear and measurable ways. The *National Standards for Arts Education* has been a driving force for curriculum and assessment development across our nation since it was published in 1994. The *National Standards for Arts Education* describes what students should know and be able to do in dance, music, theatre, and visual arts. Since that time, most states, including New Hampshire, have created state level standards in the arts that parallel these national standards.

In New Hampshire, our *K-12 Curricular Framework for the Arts* is closely aligned to the *National Standards for Arts Education*. Many districts have designed local curriculum and many teachers have based lessons on either our state or national standards. Professional development has been geared toward standards-based learning using these standards, as has our work with a competency-based assessment system.

At a meeting held in Washington, D.C. May 11-12, 2010 a group of fifty key stakeholders in arts education gathered at the Council of Chief State School Officers to determine if the field was ready to consider updating or “re-conceptualizing” our national standards in dance, music, theatre, and visual arts. The outcome of the meeting was a resounding “yes!” So begins the work of creating new national standards for the arts.

The work is being led by the State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education (SEADAE) which represents the arts consultants at state Departments of Education from around the nation. This initiative is no doubt being driven by the current wave of national interest in common state standards in English language arts and mathematics. More importantly, it is being driven by the need to update (think technology) and improve the original set of arts standards from 1994. Finally, another catalyst is that much work has been done in arts assessment in the past sixteen years that will ultimately inform the creation of a new set of common standards in the arts leading to a new and improved version for the future.

Will these standards become “Common Core” standards for the arts? If so, certain conditions exist for standards to be considered “common core.” First, they must be led by states, not the federal government or some other party. Next, they must have input from the field. The standards must also be developed for the purpose of assessing student learning. Finally, the standards will need to be presented to education commissioners and governors across the country for their support, too.

The process for developing these new national arts standards will be heavily web-based. Through technology, input from the field can be gathered, sorted, and used to help create a set of standards that are relevant and realistic. Technology can also assist by creating digital libraries of student work. The student work will help inform standards writing teams. These two aspects alone make this process very different from the standards writing process of 1994.

The SEADAE members who are leading the work include SEADAE President Debora Hansen, DE; and three co-chairs, Dr. Linda Lovins, FL; Marcia McCaffrey, NH; and Lynn Tuttle, AZ. The four service organizations of MENC: The National Association for Music Education, National Arts Education Association, National Dance Education Organization, and the Educational Theatre Association are assisting SEADAE leaders in all aspects of the work. Timeline for the project includes fundraising efforts through the summer and fall 2010; collection of student work and standards writing process through the winter of 2011; review and response from the field in spring 2011; revision and final drafts in the fall 2011; and a first release in December, 2011.

This work corresponds with the 10-year revision cycle for the *New Hampshire K-12 Curriculum Framework for the Arts* (2001). Once the new national standards have been produced, New Hampshire will begin an adoption process with input from the field for specific needs related to New Hampshire arts standards in dance, music, theatre and visual art culminating in a revised set of state standards. Subsequently, a new set of *New Hampshire K-12 Curriculum Framework for the Arts* will be produced. As this work unfolds, arts teachers and other key stakeholders will be kept informed.

The New England Arts Assessment Institute 2010: August 3-6, PSU, Plymouth, New Hampshire

A collaboration of the New Hampshire and Vermont Departments of Education, this award winning professional development institute is available to all K-16 music, visual art, theatre, dance and classroom teachers, curriculum coordinators and others. National experts and panels, four learning strands to choose from, and more information on national standards are some of the offerings. This year the institute moves to Plymouth State University. Commuter and resident rates available; three graduate credits are available through graduate program at Plymouth State University. Brochure and registration materials available at <http://newenglandarts.ning.com/>

Measuring Up: Arts Education in New Hampshire

Arts Education Survey results statewide rollout

November 9, 2010 (Manchester, NH location TBD)

Presentation to the State Board of Education

November 10, 2010

<http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/curriculum/arts/index.htm>

Some **SAT/PSAT Test Dates for 2010-2011**

2010-2011 Test Dates	Test
October 9, 2010	SAT & Subject Tests
October 13, 2010	PSAT/NMSQT
October 16, 2010	PSAT/NMSQT
May 7, 2011	SAT & Subject Tests

Source: www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/calenefees.html
<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/reg/dates.html>

AP 2010 Exams Schedule (not available yet)

Source: <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/cal.html>

IB Exam Schedule (not available yet)

Source: <http://www.ibo.org/>

Known Religious Holidays During NECAP Testing

School Year 2010-2011

OCTOBER 2010 (testing dates: October 1-22, 2010 with pick up on October 25)

1	Simchat Torah * - Jewish
4	St Francis Day - Catholic Christian
8-16	Navaratri ** - Hindu
11	Thanksgiving - Interfaith - Canada
17	Dasera ** - Hindu
20	Birth of the Báb * - Baha'i

MAY 2011 (testing dates: May 9-26, 2011 with pick up on May 27)

9	Yom Ha'Atzmaut * - Jewish
17	Buddha Day - Visakha Puja ** - Buddhist
22	Lag B'Omer * - Jewish
23	Declaration of the Bab * - Baha'i

* Means that Holy days begin at sundown the day before this date.

** Regional customs, group preference or moon sightings may cause a variation of this date.

Bold titles are primary holy days of a tradition.

For Additional Information on Religious Holidays

Go to: <http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/2010.htm>
<http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/2011.htm>